IF′s Portable Interactive DataWall delivered to AFIT

by Francis L. Crumb, Information Directorate

ROME, N.Y. — A Portable Interactive DataWall (PIDW) was delivered and installed March 30 at the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT), Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. The Air Force Research Laboratory's Information Directorate provided the technology through a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with AFIT and Wright State University.

The Interactive DataWall provides commanders and other decision-makers the capability for multiple users to have simultaneous access to a variety of real-time simulations and data displays. This innovative technology offers integrated command center activity for military battle management, civilian emergency management teams and operators of industrial control centers.

As part of the CRADA, Wright State University will research Human-Computer Interaction and visualizations involving large screen displays for distributed command and control using the DataWall. The results will be shared with the directorate's C4ISR Modeling and Simulation Branch.

"To better support their sponsors, AFIT officials sought to acquire a portable DataWall to have a large display configuration common to AFRL and other Air Force organizations," said Peter A. Jedrysik, Information Directorate program manager. "Despite AFIT's limited budget to purchase such a display system, the directorate agreed to provide a previously used system at a reduced cost in exchange for research in support of the DataWall project."

Planned research includes integration and evaluation of additional input devices and techniques to work with the DataWall. AFIT will experiment with simultaneous user interaction using multiple devices. They will also develop and/or integrate existing command and control applications to run on the DataWall.

AFIT and Wright State University plan to research collaborative interaction techniques distributed across workstations using high-speed Internet connections. The Portable Interactive DataWall installed at AFIT will be used as one of multiple collaborating workstations. @